

National Priority 4: Strengthen Information Sharing and Collaboration

The program managers for this section are:

Lee Miller
Virginia State Police
Lehew.miller@vsp.virginia.gov

Fred Vincent
Virginia Dept. of Emergency Management
Fred.vincent@vdem.virginia.gov

Sam Hoffman
Dept. of Criminal Justice Services
Sam.hoffman@dcjs.virginia.gov

For questions on this section please contact either Lee, Sam or Tom.

To provide input on any part of this section please direct your comments to:

Susan Mongold
Office of Commonwealth Preparedness
804-692-2598
Susan.mongold@governor.virginia.gov

This section is intended to address issues such as:

Associated Capability: Intelligence and Information Sharing and Dissemination

- Describe where your State is with establishing a fusion process/center to gather, analyze, disseminate, and use terrorism information, homeland security information, and law enforcement information relating to terrorism.
- Discuss how does this statewide fusion process/center supports the implementation of the Global Justice / Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) Fusion Center Guidelines, the Information Sharing Environment Implementation Plan prepared by the Program Manager, and the Information Sharing Environment (November 2006).
- Describe the baseline level of capability for the statewide fusion center as defined by the Fusion Capability Planning Tool located at http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/grants_hsgp.htm.
- Describe how your statewide fusion process/center accesses the DHS Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN), DOJ Law Enforcement Information Sharing Program, FBI JTTFs and FIGs, and ATACs.
- Discuss the statewide fusion process/center in terms of supporting achievement of tasks associated with each of the four fusion related target capability levels (Information Gathering and Recognition of Indicators and Warnings, Intelligence Analysis and Production, Intelligence/Information Sharing and Dissemination, and Law Enforcement Investigation and Operations).

Associated Capability: Counter-Terror Investigations and Law Enforcement

Reference the Target Capabilities List when describing your current level of capability. Specifically, consider the following information for the capability: Capability Description, Outcomes, Critical Tasks, and Performance Measures and Objectives.

National Priority 4: Strengthen Information Sharing and Collaboration

A. Accomplishments

Establishment of Virginia Fusion Center (VFC)

- The Virginia Fusion Center (which is successfully collocated with the State EOC) has been operating 24-hours a day, 7 days a week, for over 18 months. It is fully integrated and sustained by the Virginia State Police and VDEM.
- All tiers of the Virginia government and the first responder community are actively involved in the VFC and the information sharing process.
- Operating policies and procedures for the VFC clearly define how information flows to, from, and within the center, and written intelligence requirements complement established Federal Priority Intelligence and Information Requirements.
- Virginia has requested and received certification for the VFC from DHS, FBI, and DOD.

Fusion Center Personnel

- The VFC currently has 17 analysts all with specific sectors.
- The FBI, on behalf of the Justice Department, has placed an analyst in the VFC which greatly enhances the exchange of mission-critical information.
- The National Guard, reporting for the Defense Department, has a full-time representative in the VFC, giving the State a direct link to the military. This person is trained in accordance with the fusion process requirements.
- The VFC houses a DHS analyst full-time to facilitate coordination with the Federal government.
- The VFC also has partners with JFCOM, NORTHCOM and has “virtual” partners with TSA and Dept. of Corrections.
- The VFC has a workstation for every VERT agency, and Dominion Power’s Security Division now has two analysts in the Fusion Center part-time. The VFC is working to get these analysts access to the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) but two states currently object.
- Virginia temporarily exchanges personnel with Federal and local intelligence centers (and implements short tours of duty in the Fusion Center for local personnel) to expand understanding of varying viewpoints, develop partnerships, encourage cross-pollination, and establish lines of communication.
- The VFC conducts law enforcement background checks for all individuals participating in the information flow
- A Virginia Fusion Center Advisory Board has been established to represent the governance structure and includes executive members from DHS, FBI, State agencies, private industry, and law enforcement.
- Subject matter experts have been identified from critical State agencies.
- Performance measures for personnel have been designed to coincide with the center’s mission, goals, and objectives.
- The Richmond FBI and Norfolk FIGs have full time analysts rotating through the VFC, and information is shared with the JTTFs and FIGs on a regular basis.

Fusion Center Operations

- Information sharing mechanisms in the VFC incorporate information from the Health EOC, and all VERT agencies are assigned a POC for the Fusion Center to receive information.
- The Department of Aviation and the VFC have been meeting on a regular basis (in VASAC meetings) to ensure pertinent aviation-related security issues are communicated to each other.
- The Center maintains regular contact with function-specific analysts from other agencies and the private sector (health and medical, agricultural, transportation, fire services, environmental, military, industry and infrastructure, etc.) and brings them into the fusion process when needed.
- The State coordinates information/intelligence sharing with the utility industry and ensures that law enforcement and emergency management plans address critical utility infrastructure.
- The Virginia Secure Operations Room, the DHS-certified facility for top-secret information, is also co-located within the VFC and handles national security information for both the EOC and Fusion Center operations. Additionally, the Commonwealth has initiated several systems designed to provide enhanced, augmented, and redundant modes of communication in the event of a disaster, all with the design of a statewide program of interoperability.
- By the end of 2006, there were nine regional information sharing networks linking a total of 91 agencies/localities across the state, mostly in rural areas.
- The Anti-Terrorism Advisory Councils (ATACs) in the Western District of the Commonwealth are enhancing the collaboration between law enforcement agencies.
- Over 600 contacts have been established with local law enforcement, other state fusion centers, state agencies in Virginia with a homeland security mission, and private sector partners such as Dominion Power. Monthly and quarterly meetings are held with these partners, and outreach programs are conducted to promote awareness of fusion center activities.
- The VFC has developed MOUs with all agencies participating in the fusion process and has initiated a work group to draft legislation dealing with any inappropriate disclosure of information.
- The fusion center has access to a variety of databases from State and Federal agencies, including the DMV, RISS, LEO, and HSIN. N-Dex and R-Dex will be accessed when available.
- There is an established security policy for the VFC, and security officers have been designated to ensure all protocols are followed and all personnel undergo yearly security training.
- Information is archived, and intelligence information is retained, per 28CFR regulations.

Fusion Center Reports

- The VFC works well with the EOC to coordinate activities and support them during an incident or event.
- On a daily basis, the Information Classification Unit (ICU) forwards mission-related information to State agencies, law enforcement officers, and the private sector. This

process enables the State to share information with people who do not hold a Federal security clearance.

- The VFC has the capacity to identify patterns, trends, and pre-incident indicators. It can collect key information from existing sources, and information can be reported to the center using the tips line or the internet.
- The VFC prepares an annual Intelligence Assessment that draws from national intelligence assessments and estimates, Department of Homeland Security and Federal Bureau of Investigation Advisories and Alerts, and other sources of intelligence and information including “Open Source” reporting and local and State information. The Intelligence Assessment uses information that is Sensitive but Unclassified in nature. Prior to its release the Assistant to the Governor for Commonwealth Preparedness coordinates annual review and approval of the Commonwealth’s Annual Intelligence Assessment with the Secretary of Public Safety, Adjutant General, Superintendent of Virginia State Police, Coordinator of Emergency Management, Commissioner of Health, and others as needed. Upon approval of the Intelligence Assessment, the Director of the Intelligence Fusion Center briefs designated members of the Governor’s Cabinet and key leaders in the General Assembly, including designated Committee Chairs and the Speaker of the House. This briefing is provided within the first three days of the General Assembly’s annual session.
- The VFC has established a hotline and email reporting system for terrorism tips and transmits pertinent information to local jurisdictions.

Law Enforcement Information Exchange (LInX)

- The LInX data system, currently available in 10 percent of Virginia localities, will provide local law enforcement officers with secure access to regional crime and incident data, as well as the tools to process that information.

B. Current Capabilities

Intelligence and Information Sharing and Dissemination Capability:

- The VFC has the capacity to identify patterns, trends, and pre-incident indicators. It can collect key information from existing sources, and information can be reported to the center using the tips line or the internet.
- Relevant Federal, State, regional, and local authorities have been identified as necessary participants in the information sharing process and have access to the necessary information sharing systems
- Regulatory, statutory, and/or privacy policies are in place
- Mechanisms within the information sharing network to provide feedback and/or follow-up information as needed are in place
- Local agencies have an established procedure/protocol for providing intelligence products or relevant information to street-level law enforcement personnel
- The Virginia Fusion Center ensures the participation of private sector and Federal partners
- Appropriate personnel are trained in processing and disseminating information and intelligence

- Training and exercise programs include interaction with the private sector operators of critical infrastructure
- Intelligence is shared systematically between Federal, State, regional and local entities in a timely manner.
- Relevant information and/or intelligence products are disseminated to street-level law enforcement personnel

Counter-Terror Investigations and Law Enforcement Capability:

- Infrastructure has been established for the Staten and local governments to exchange terrorism and crime information
- Procedures are in place for conducting appropriate background investigations on personnel applying for sensitive positions in government, law enforcement, and the private sector
- Processes and procedures for law enforcement at all levels to identify and respond to suspicious activities and persons through the appropriate channels are in place
- Processes and procedures for law enforcement at all levels to identify individuals planning and coordinating terrorist-related activities are in place
- Processes and procedures for law enforcement at all levels to apprehend and interdict terrorist suspects are in place
- Processes and procedures for law enforcement at all levels to gather, catalogue, and preserve evidence for prosecutorial purposes and attribution are in place
- Investigative policies, procedures, and processes are reviewed on a periodic basis
- Notification processes and procedures to share information to/from Federal, State, local, and tribal officials regarding an on-going investigation are in place
- Investigative personnel are familiar with the Terrorist Incident Annex to the NRP
- Plans and protocols for sharing incident-specific information from Federal partners with State, local, and tribal authorities, Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs), and other pertinent entities are in place
- State, local, and tribal law enforcement either possess or have access to special operations teams (e.g., SWAT teams)
- Information flow plans/process for onsite personnel and detection capabilities are developed for rapidly relaying investigative information

C. Three-Year Targets

Intelligence and Information Sharing and Dissemination Capability:

Target Description	Projected Completion Year	Status
Improve the operation of the Eastern District Anti-Terrorism Advisory Councils.	2010	Open
Continue to enhance the VFC system through the acquisition and training of additional analysts and assigning them to duty in the VSP District Offices.	2010	Open
Acquire additional grant funding for the VFC and the	2010	Open

Regional Crime Information Sharing Networks (RCISN).		
Enhancement of current communication systems to allow communication across state borders.	2010	Open
Regional systems that currently exist need to be XML compliant (hardware and software) in order to meet the standard for public safety data sharing in the U. S.	2010	Open
Virginia State government should take a leadership role and support the establishment of additional regional information sharing networks throughout the state.	2010	Open

Counter-Terror Investigations and Law Enforcement Capability:

Target Description	Projected Completion Year	Status
Build the capacity to prevent terrorism acts by improving the ability of law enforcement and other security agencies to identify, investigate and apprehend suspected terrorists before they can strike.	2010	Open
Exchange and maintain counter-terrorism intelligence and criminal records information systems, through improved collection, analysis, and exchange methodologies among law enforcement agencies and the public sector at all levels of government.	2010	Open
Promote collaboration and equitable partnerships among all levels of government and private industry in the development of homeland security strategies, policies, and funding initiatives.	2010	Open
Pursue state and national legislative changes to reduce our communities' vulnerabilities and improve our ability to prevent a terrorist attack.	2010	Open
Promote terrorism awareness and prevention through private sector and citizen involvement.	2010	Open

D. Initiatives

Intelligence and Information Sharing and Dissemination Capability:

Establish Virginia Information Intelligence Management System (VIIMS) (Targets 4, 5, 6)

Description:

The VIIMS will complete Virginia's efforts to establish the Fusion Center, and it is envisioned that this system will help streamline the collection, analysis, and distribution of timely intelligence. It is expected that intelligence and information products will allow State agencies and local governments to address all-hazard incidents in a more efficient and effective manner.

Part of this Initiative is to establish the VEOC/Fusion Center Statewide Geospatial Data Sharing Network. This Network will allow for enhanced situational awareness through the ability to access and analyze federal and state geospatial data and products. The geospatial information can be shared with State agencies and local governments during disasters, emergencies, and routine operations.

The Commonwealth and private sector are also working to develop policies governing information and intelligence sharing. The VISE can be used to bring the key government and private sector Preparedness and security officials together to communicate. The SCP B&I Sub-Panel have toured Fusion Center and encouraged business to sign up for VCISSP 150

In addition to the above, Virginia is also focusing on the following activities as part of this initiative:

- Creation of a law enforcement terrorism information and intelligence clearinghouse.
 - Purchase of personal protective equipment.
 - Establishment of computer evidence recovery units.
 - Enhancement of tactical water operations.
 - Acquisition of explosive detection canines.
 - Improvement of aviation units' night operations.
 - Establishment of regional emergency response teams/workgroups.
 - Establishment of a law enforcement terrorism training office. *
 - Creation of a law enforcement equipment and readiness fund.
 - Establishment of a regional emergency response teams exercise fund.
 - Continued development of written intelligence requirements for first responders, agencies, and governments to improve intelligence and information sharing.
 - Development of a staffing plan to include full time analysts at the District level of the VFC system.
 - Acquisition of additional grant funding for training of analysts in fusion centers.
 - Development of requirements to covert an existing regional information sharing network to Global Justice X Markup Language (GJXML), commonly referred to as XML.
- In addition, any new networks being developed should be XML compliant

Geographic Scope:

The VIIMS and the Network will be housed at the Virginia State Police Headquarters with the Virginia Emergency Operations Center and the Virginia Fusion Center. Its impact, however, will be statewide and throughout all regions.

Program Management:

The majority of the effort involved in this Initiative is directed towards hardware, software, and licenses required for the VFC to use federal data and processing capabilities. The Commonwealth has been in contact with national intelligence agencies who wish to support the development of the VFC through this Initiative.

Counter-Terror Investigations and Law Enforcement Capability:

Build the capacity to prevent terrorist acts by improving the ability of law enforcement and other security agencies to identify, investigate, and apprehend suspected terrorists before they can strike.

Priority Actions

- ❑ Maintain a strategic planning process, reviewed annually, chartered to develop a capabilities-based, long-range, homeland security strategy.
- ❑ Establish regional groups composed of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies as well as representatives from the private sector to facilitate intelligence and information sharing as well as provide relevant anti-terrorism training to its members.
- ❑ Continue to implement and enhance regional, statewide, and interstate criminal information sharing capabilities that meet national standards.
- ❑ Enhance the capability of the Virginia Fusion Center to manage and integrate homeland security-related information and intelligence across all jurisdictions, disciplines, and the private sector.
- ❑ Establish statewide counterterrorism and intelligence training requirements for law enforcement and other homeland security-related personnel.
- ❑ Establish an integrated, multi-agency counterterrorism investigative capability throughout the state that addresses all:
 - Known or suspected terrorist organizations, cells, and actors,
 - Terror-related threats,
 - Suspicious activities,
 - Groups and networks providing direct material support to terrorists, and
 - Criminal enterprises indirectly supporting or enabling terrorists.
- ❑ Acquire and maintain threat detection, surveillance, and intervention equipment for key interdiction and inspection points to support national threat analysis and ensure rapid detection, investigation, and prevention of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive incidents.

Enhance and maintain counter-terrorism intelligence and criminal records information systems, through improved collection, analysis, and exchange methodologies among law enforcement agencies and the public safety sector at all levels of government.

Priority Actions

- ❑ Continue development of regional crime information sharing networks to provide communications and information sharing among all stakeholders.
- ❑ Establish a statewide data sharing capability connecting regional crime information sharing networks with state law enforcement agencies, the Virginia Fusion Center, and appropriate federal agencies.
- ❑ Adopt the Justice Global XML data sharing standards for all new criminal justice information systems.
- ❑ Leverage existing federally funded information systems to communicate and collaborate at all levels.
- ❑ Enhance and maintain the capabilities of intelligence analysts and investigators by providing the most effective and efficient analytical and investigative training, techniques, equipment, and tools.

Promote collaboration and equitable partnerships among all levels of government and private industry in the development of homeland security strategies, policies, and funding initiatives.

Priority Actions

- ❑ Incorporate and integrate representatives of critical infrastructure strategic facilities into Virginia Fusion Center operations.
- ❑ Facilitate mutual technical assistance and training sessions among law enforcement agencies and the private security industry.
- ❑ Enlist the homeland security community, including fire services, health services, agriculture, animal health, and other critical infrastructure stakeholders, as collectors and customers of intelligence.

Pursue state and national legislative changes to reduce our communities' vulnerabilities and improve our ability to prevent a terrorist attack.

Priority Actions

- ❑ Seek legislation and funding to enhance the security of state driver's licenses to offer a Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative compliant document to U.S. citizen residents of

Virginia and to enable future compliance with the requirements of U.S. Department of Homeland Security REAL ID.

- ❑ Seek legislation and funding to meet the objectives of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Cyber Identity/Credentialing (formerly Smartcard) program.

Promote terrorism awareness and prevention through private sector and citizen involvement.

Priority Actions

- ❑ Identify priority messages for targeted public and private industry awareness campaigns focusing on reporting of suspicious activities related to terrorism.
- ❑ Establish regional and local strategies to increase terror-related public awareness through media outlets and citizen groups.
- ❑ Strive to include Virginia's citizens in homeland security activities as well as to increase their crime and terrorism awareness through public education and outreach, training, and volunteer service opportunities.
- ❑ Seek opportunities for informed volunteerism and service opportunities through Citizen Corps' component programs: Community Emergency Response Teams, Volunteers in Police Service, Neighborhood Watch, and other related programs that support the goal of making Virginia and America safer.
- ❑ Establish secure and unclassified communications systems and processes to support interactive and real-time intelligence/information exchange among private sector entities, local law enforcement agencies, and state homeland security operations.

E. Resources

Resources Expended in FY 2007

In 2006 and 2007, the Fusion Center received no funding from the SHSGP. The Fusion Center training and equipment is funded from a BURN grant with a 25% match. Personnel are paid by the state and its partners in the Fusion Center.

Law Enforcement Information Exchange (LInX): The LInX data system, currently available in 10 percent of Virginia localities, will provide local law enforcement officers with secure access to regional crime and incident data, as well as the tools to process that information.
\$7,028,740

Future Resources Required

Need more info

